US009106740B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Jung et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 9,106,740 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Aug. 11, 2015**

(54) **TRANSFERABLE DEVICE WITH ALTERABLE USAGE FUNCTIONALITY**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 239 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/474,074**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 23, 2006**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2008/0032682 A1 Feb. 7, 2008

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H04W 12/12	(2009.01)
H04M 3/42	(2006.01)
H04M 1/725	(2006.01)
H04W 12/06	(2009.01)
H04L 29/06	(2006.01)
H04M 3/38	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***H04M 3/42136*** (2013.01); ***H04M 1/72563*** (2013.01); ***H04W 12/06*** (2013.01); *H04L 63/0861* (2013.01); *H04M 3/38* (2013.01); *H04M 2203/053* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H04B 1/3816
USPC 455/408, 410, 411, 414.3, 418
See application file for complete search history.

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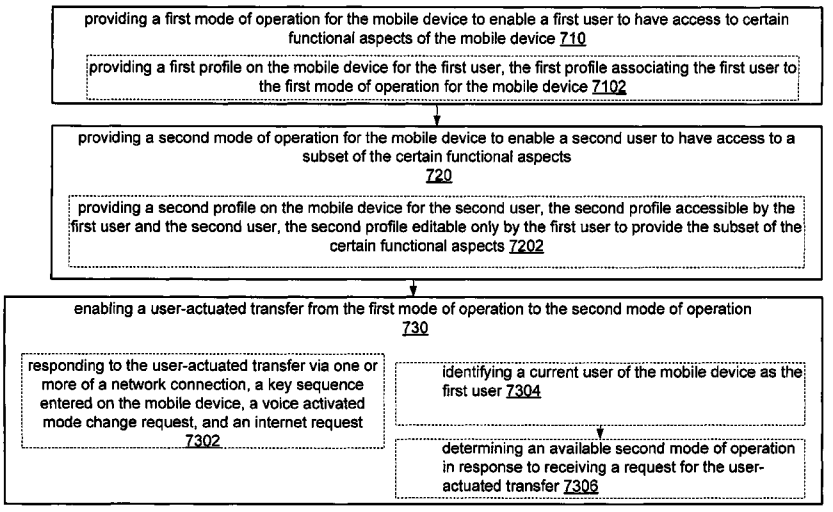
Assistant Examiner — Frank Donado

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and device for providing a transferable device with alterable usage functionality includes but is not limited to a method including receiving a request from a user to alter one or more functions of the mobile device, responding to the request from the user by activating a first mode, the first mode to alter the one or more functions on the mobile device, and enabling a remote authentication function to allow the user to remotely alter the first mode to at least a second mode.

41 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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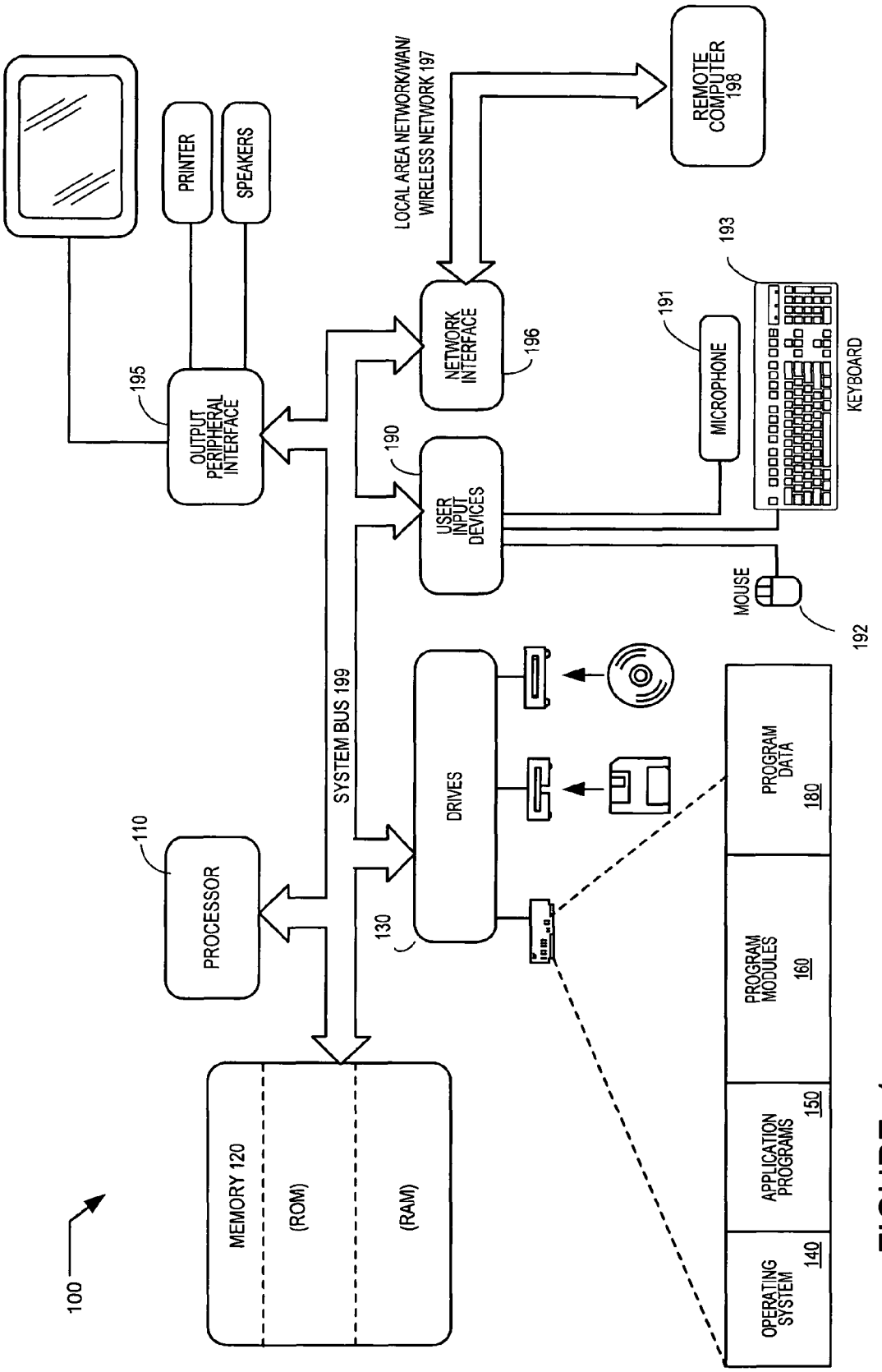
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(RAM)
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110
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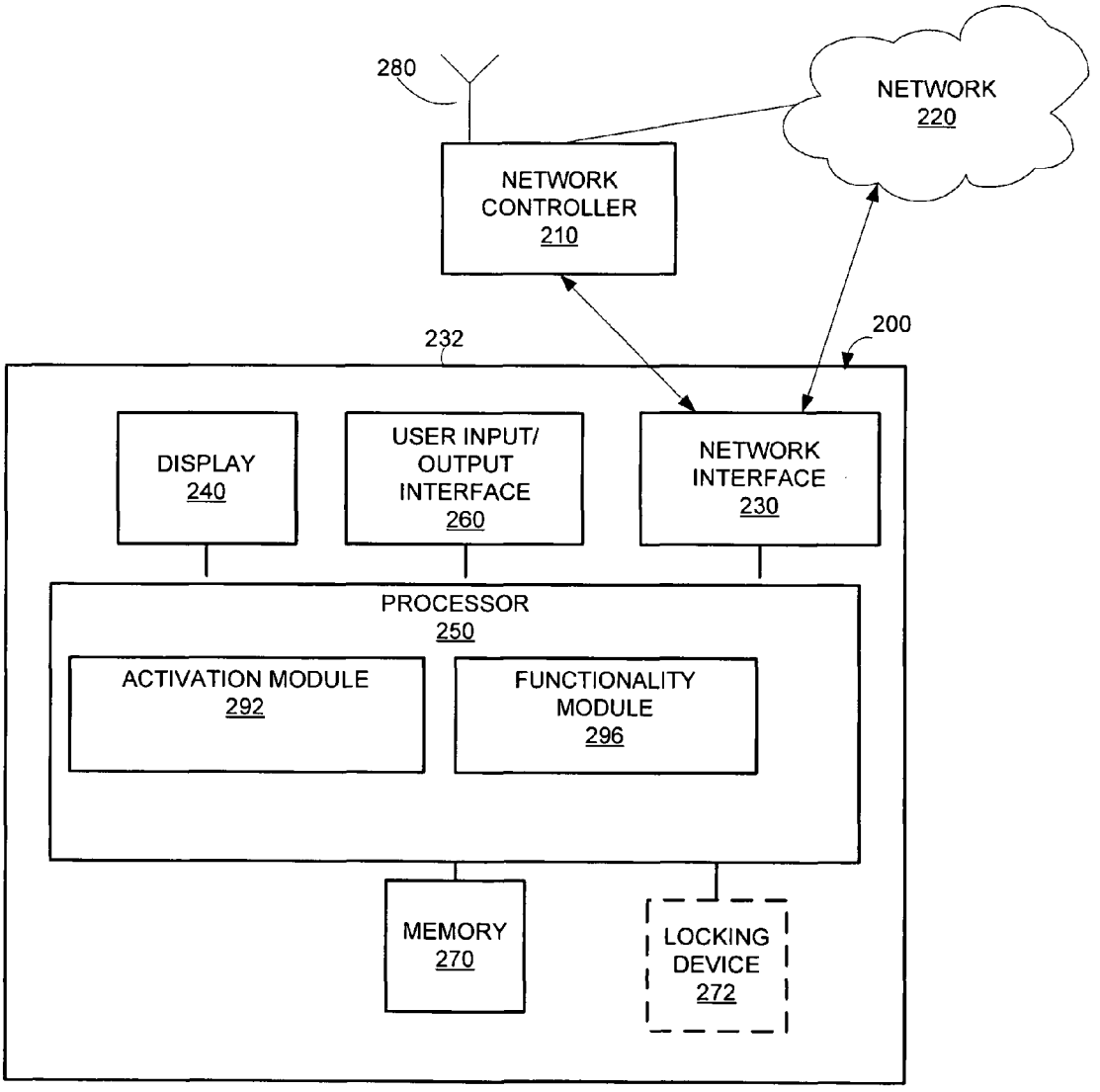
DRIVES
130
OPERATING SYSTEM 140
APPLICATION PROGRAMS 150
PROGRAM MODULES 160
PROGRAM DATA 180
USER INPUT DEVICES
190
MOUSE
192
MICROPHONE
191
KEYBOARD
193
NETWORK INTERFACE
196
LOCAL AREA NETWORK/WAN/ WIRELESS NETWORK 197
REMOTE COMPUTER 198
OUTPUT PERIPHERAL INTERFACE
195
PRINTER
SPEAKERS

FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2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NETWORK
220
NETWORK
CONTROLLER
210
232
200
DISPLAY
240
USER INPUT/
OUTPUT
INTERFACE
260
NETWORK
INTERFACE
230
PROCESSOR
250
ACTIVATION MODULE
292
FUNCTIONALITY
MODULE
296
MEMORY
270
LOCKING
DEVICE
272

FIGURE 3

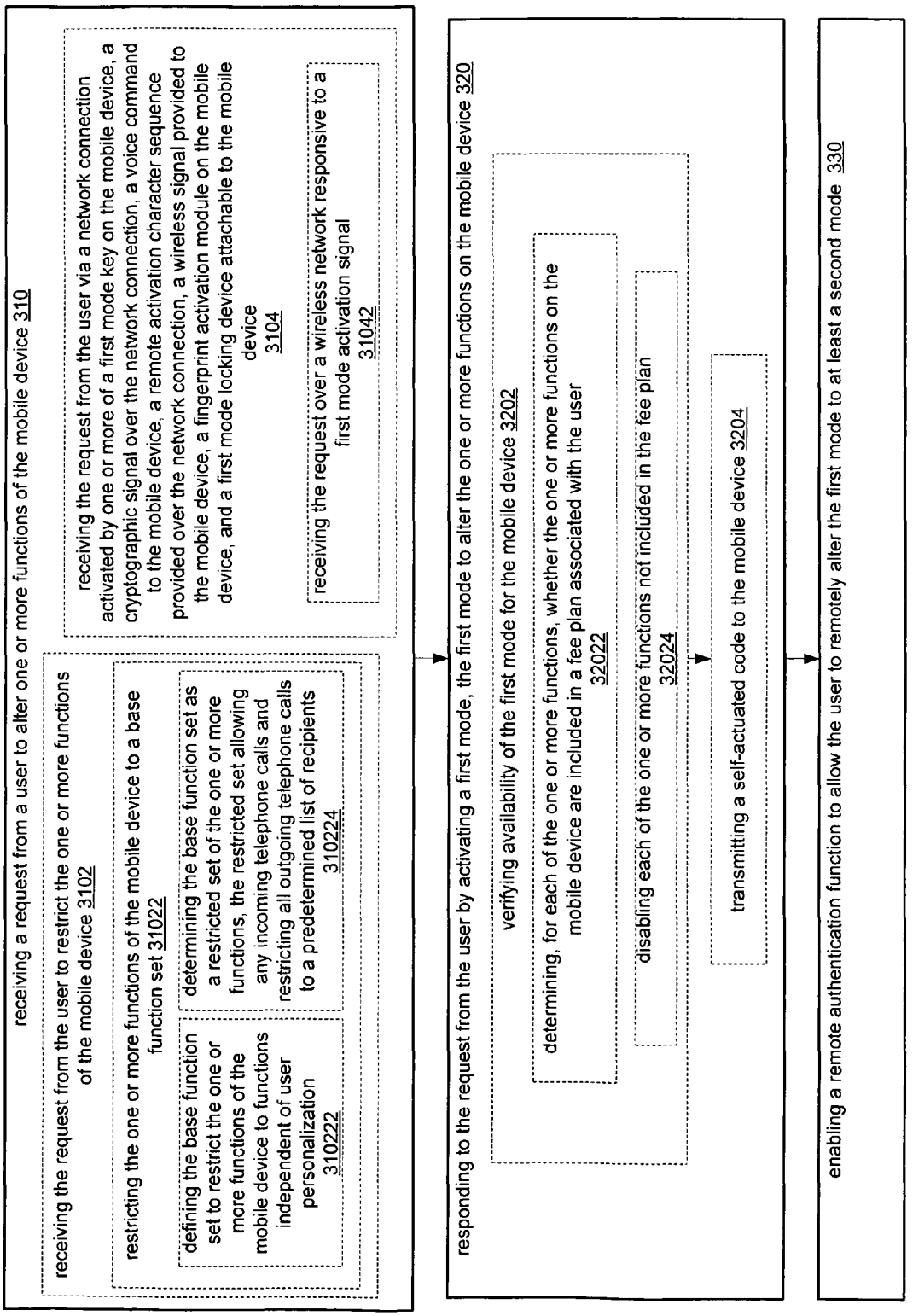

receiving a request from a user to alter one or more functions of the mobile device 310
receiving the request from the user to restrict the one or more functions of the mobile device 3102
restricting the one or more functions of the mobile device to a base function set 31022
defining the base function set to restrict the one or more functions of the mobile device to functions independent of user personalization 310222
determining the base function set as a restricted set of the one or more functions, the restricted set allowing any incoming telephone calls and restricting all outgoing telephone calls to a predetermined list of recipients 310224
receiving the request from the user via a network connection activated by one or more of a first mode key on the mobile device, a cryptographic signal over the network connection, a voice command to the mobile device, a remote activation character sequence provided over the network connection, a wireless signal provided to the mobile device, a fingerprint activation module on the mobile device, and a first mode locking device attachable to the mobile device 3104
receiving the request over a wireless network responsive to a first mode activation signal 31042
responding to the request from the user by activating a first mode, the first mode to alter the one or more functions on the mobile device 320
verifying availability of the first mode for the mobile device 3202
determining, for each of the one or more functions, whether the one or more functions on the mobile device are included in a fee plan associated with the user 32022
disabling each of the one or more functions not included in the fee plan 32024
transmitting a self-actuated code to the mobile device 3204
enabling a remote authentication function to allow the user to remotely alter the first mode to at least a second mode 330

FIGURE 4

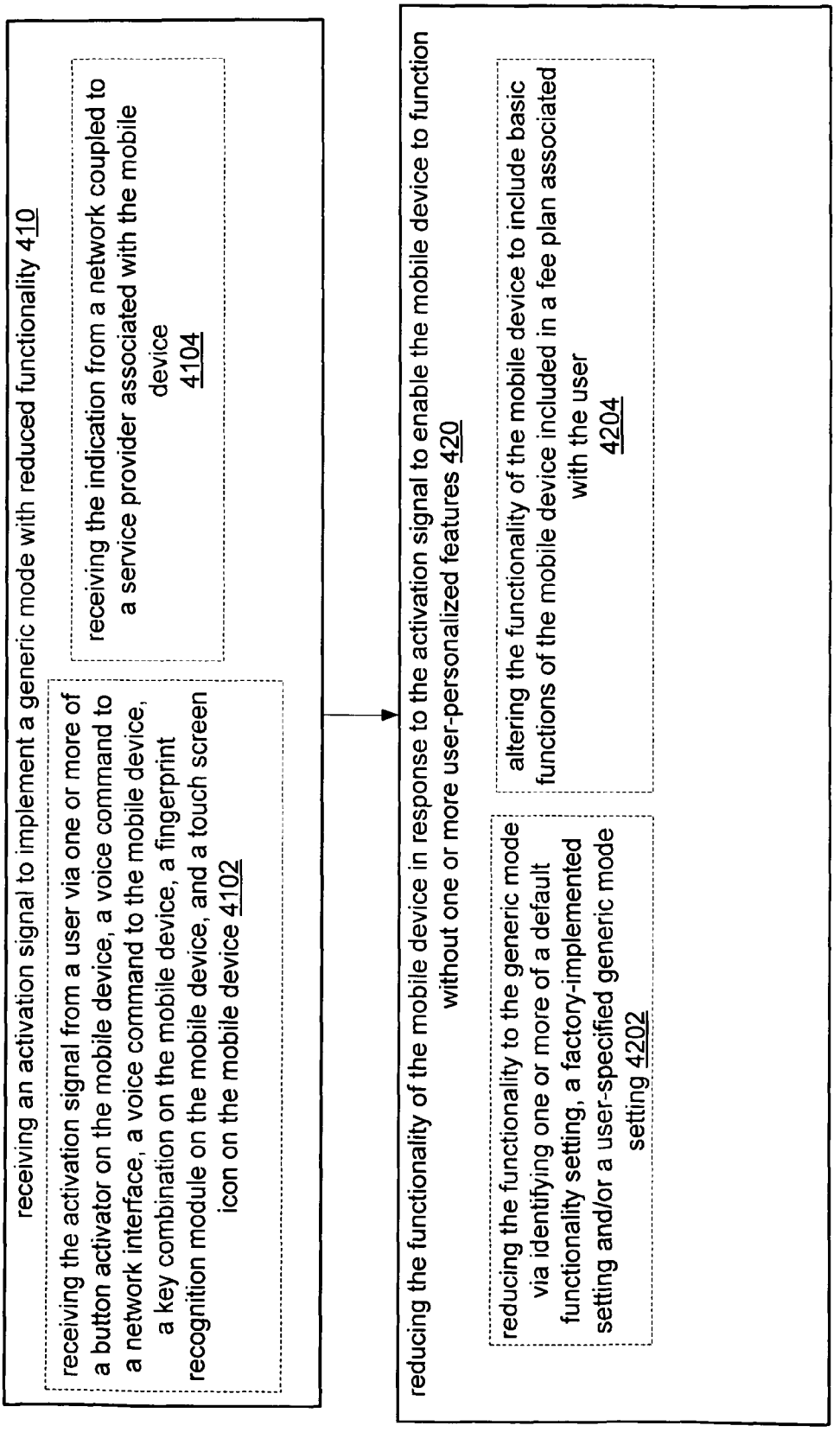

receiving an activation signal to implement a generic mode with reduced functionality 410
receiving the activation signal from a user via one or more of a button activator on the mobile device, a voice command to a network interface, a voice command to the mobile device, a key combination on the mobile device, a fingerprint recognition module on the mobile device, and a touch screen icon on the mobile device 4102
receiving the indication from a network coupled to a service provider associated with the mobile device 4104
reducing the functionality of the mobile device in response to the activation signal to enable the mobile device to function without one or more user-personalized features 420
reducing the functionality to the generic mode via identifying one or more of a default functionality setting, a factory-implemented setting and/or a user-specified generic mode setting 4202
altering the functionality of the mobile device to include basic functions of the mobile device included in a fee plan associated with the user 4204

FIGURE 5

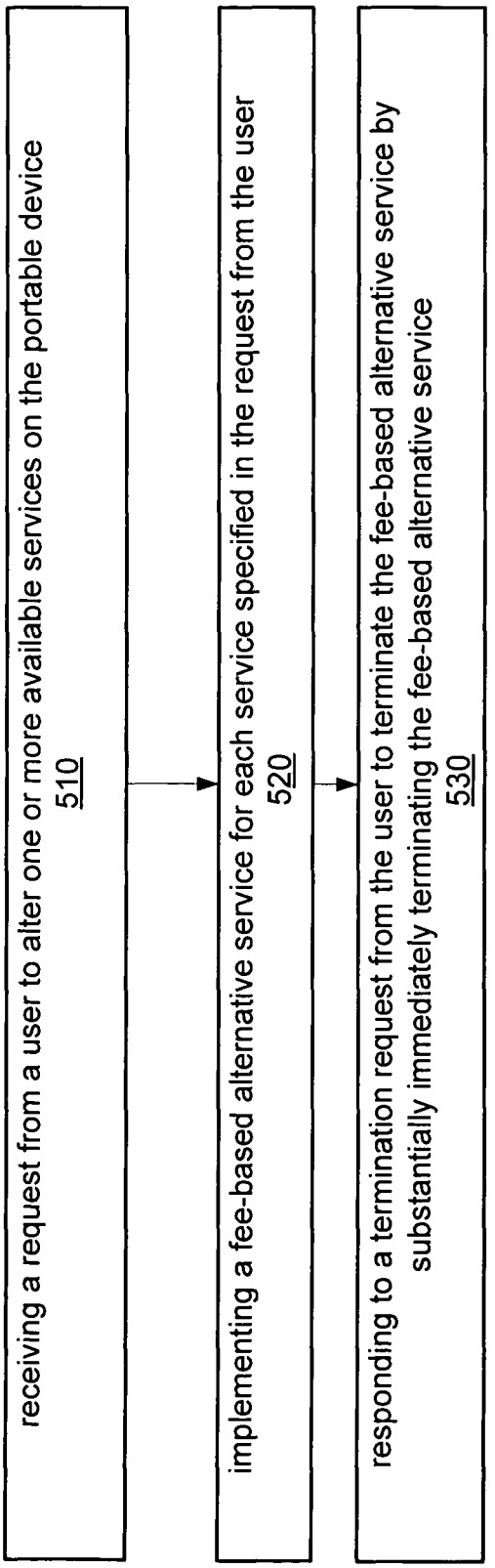

receiving a request from a user to alter one or more available services on the portable device
510
implementing a fee-based alternative service for each service specified in the request from the user
520
responding to a termination request from the user to terminate the fee-based alternative service by substantially immediately terminating the fee-based alternative service
530

FIGURE 6

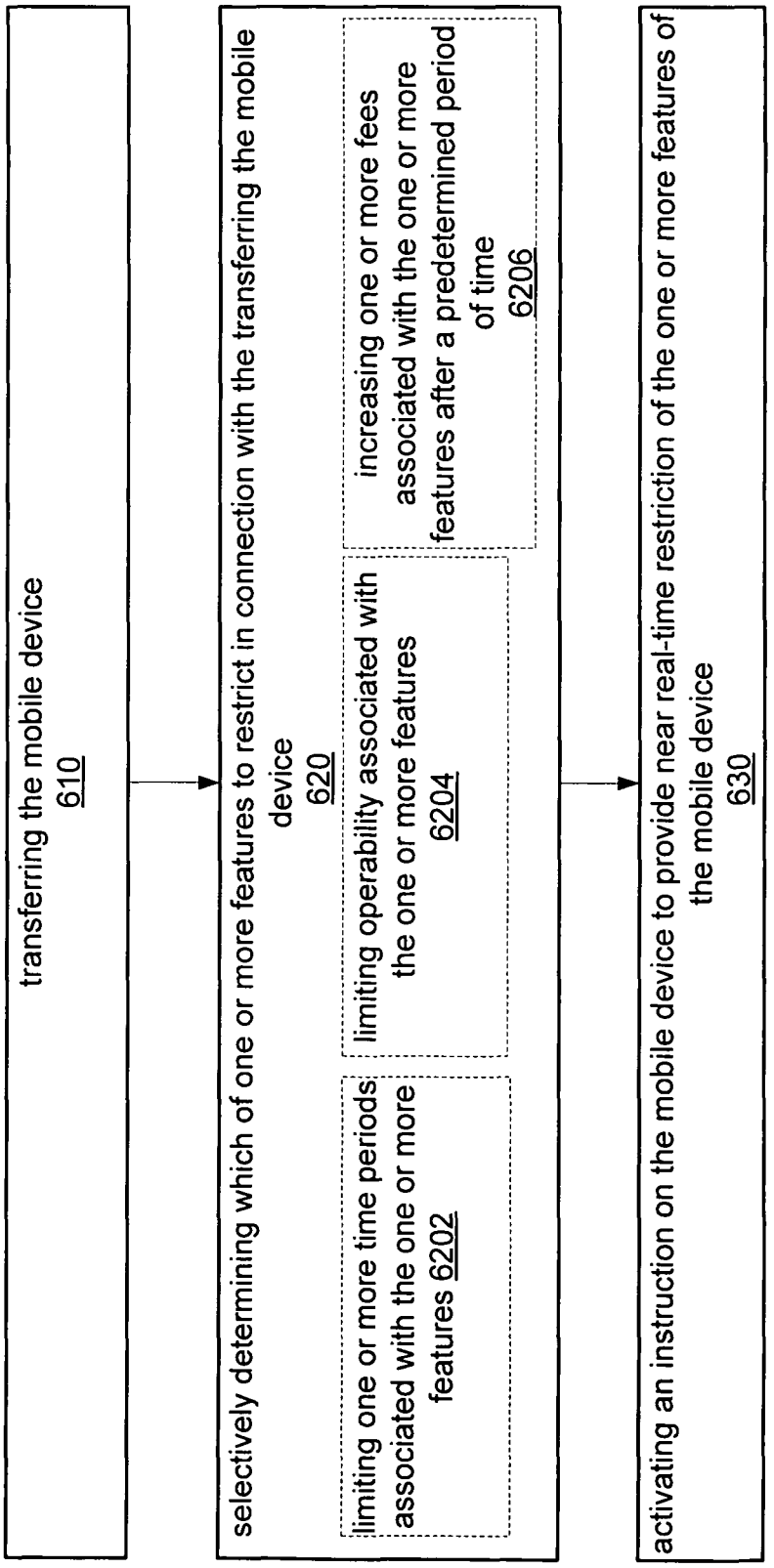

transferring the mobile device
610
selectively determining which of one or more features to restrict in connection with the transferring the mobile device
620
limiting one or more time periods associated with the one or more features 6202
limiting operability associated with the one or more features
6204
increasing one or more fees associated with the one or more features after a predetermined period of time
6206
activating an instruction on the mobile device to provide near real-time restriction of the one or more features of the mobile device
630

FIGURE 7

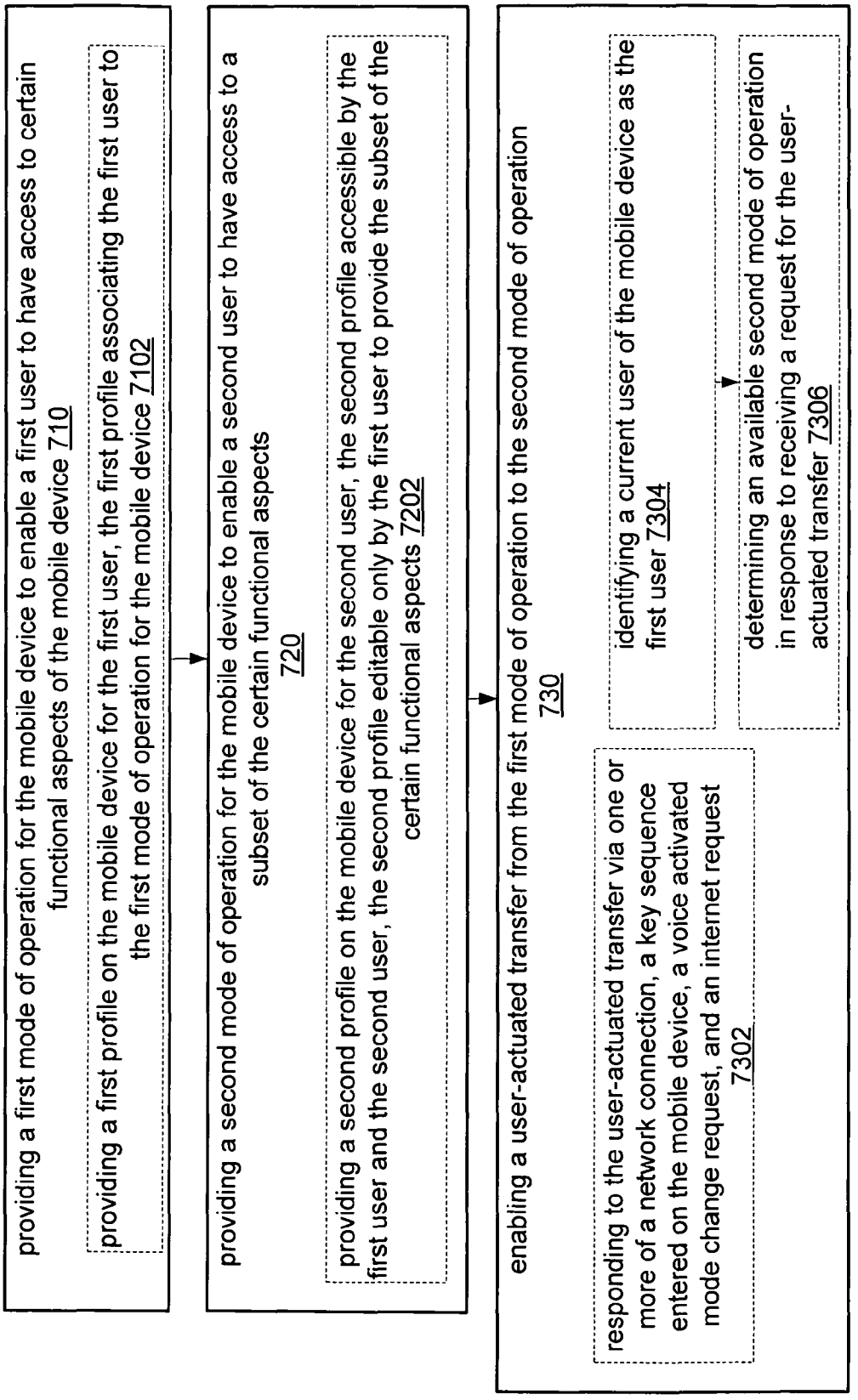
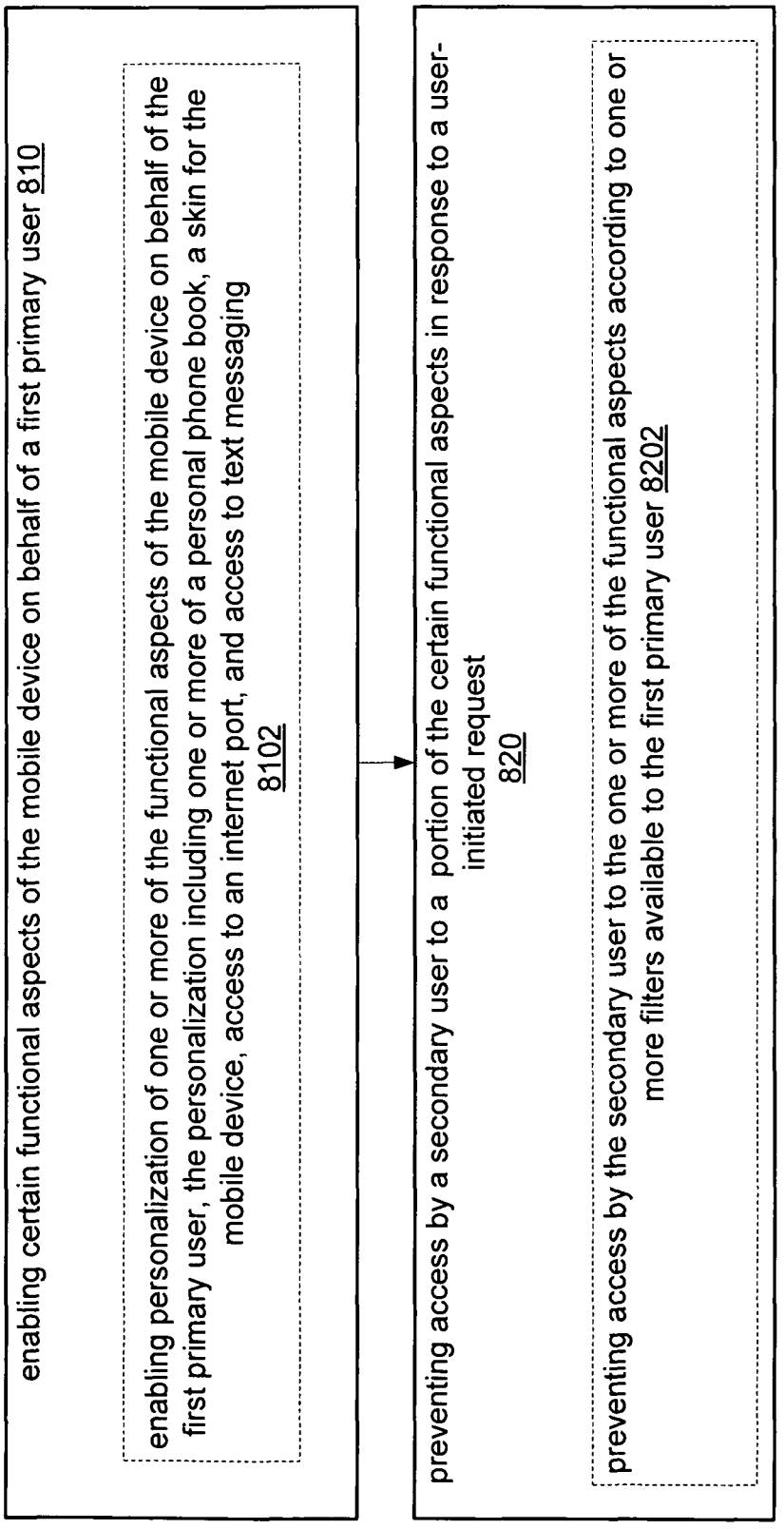

providing a first mode of operation for the mobile device to enable a first user to have access to certain functional aspects of the mobile device 710
providing a first profile on the mobile device for the first user, the first profile associating the first user to the first mode of operation for the mobile device 7102
providing a second mode of operation for the mobile device to enable a second user to have access to a subset of the certain functional aspects 720
providing a second profile on the mobile device for the second user, the second profile accessible by the first user and the second user, the second profile editable only by the first user to provide the subset of the certain functional aspects 7202
enabling a user-actuated transfer from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation 730
responding to the user-actuated transfer via one or more of a network connection, a key sequence entered on the mobile device, a voice activated mode change request, and an internet request 7302
identifying a current user of the mobile device as the first user 7304
determining an available second mode of operation in response to receiving a request for the user-actuated transfer 7306

FIGURE 8


enabling certain functional aspects of the mobile device on behalf of a first primary user 810
enabling personalization of one or more of the functional aspects of the mobile device on behalf of the first primary user, the personalization including one or more of a personal phone book, a skin for the mobile device, access to an internet port, and access to text messaging
8102
preventing access by a secondary user to a portion of the certain functional aspects in response to a user-initiated request
820
preventing access by the secondary user to the one or more of the functional aspects according to one or more filters available to the first primary user 8202

TRANSFERABLE DEVICE WITH ALTERABLE USAGE FUNCTIONALITY

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present application relates generally to devices that can be transferred with altered functionality.

SUMMARY

In one aspect, a method for a transferable device with alterable usage functionality includes but is not limited to receiving a request from a user to alter one or more functions of the mobile device; responding to the request from the user by activating a first mode, the first mode to alter the one or more functions on the mobile device; and enabling a remote authentication function to allow the user to remotely alter the first mode to at least a second mode. In addition to the foregoing, other method aspects are described in the claims, drawings, and text forming a part of the present application.

In another aspect, a method for a mobile device includes but is not limited to receiving an activation signal to implement a generic mode with reduced functionality; and reducing the functionality of the mobile device in response to the activation signal to enable the mobile device to function without one or more user-personalized features. In addition to the foregoing, other method aspects are described in the claims, drawings, and text forming a part of the present application.

In another aspect, a method for altering available services of a portable device includes but is not limited to receiving a request from a user to alter one or more available services on the portable device, and implementing a fee-based alternative service for each service specified in the request from the user. In addition to the foregoing, other method aspects are described in the claims, drawings, and text forming a part of the present application.

In another aspect, a method for determining usage of a mobile device includes but is not limited to transferring the mobile device, selectively determining which of one or more features to restrict in connection with the transferring the mobile device, and activating an instruction on the mobile device to provide near real-time restriction of the one or more features of the mobile device. In addition to the foregoing, other method aspects are described in the claims, drawings, and text forming a part of the present application.

In another aspect, a method for providing shared usage of a mobile device includes but is not limited to providing a first mode of operation for the mobile device to enable a first user to have access to certain functional aspects of the mobile device, providing a second mode of operation for the mobile device to enable a second user to have access to a subset of the certain functional aspects, and enabling a user-actuated transfer from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation. In addition to the foregoing, other method aspects are described in the claims, drawings, and text forming a part of the present application.

In another aspect, a method for providing shared usage of a mobile device includes but is not limited to enabling certain functional aspects of the mobile device on behalf of a first primary user, and preventing access by a secondary user to a portion of the certain functional aspects in response to a user-initiated request. In addition to the foregoing, other method aspects are described in the claims, drawings, and text forming a part of the present application.

In another aspect, a computer program product includes but is not limited to a signal bearing medium bearing at least one of one or more instructions for receiving a request from a user to alter one or more functions of the mobile device; one or more instructions for responding to the request from the user by activating a first mode, the first mode to alter the one or more functions on the mobile device; one or more instructions for responding to the request from the user by activating a first mode, the first mode to alter the one or more functions on the mobile device; and

one or more instructions for enabling a remote authentication function to allow the user to remotely alter the first mode to at least a second mode. In addition to the foregoing, other computer program product aspects are described in the claims, drawings, and text forming a part of the present application.

In one or more various aspects, related systems include but are not limited to circuitry and/or programming for effecting the herein-referenced method aspects; the circuitry and/or programming can be virtually any combination of hardware, software, and/or firmware configured to effect the herein-referenced method aspects depending upon the design choices of the system designer. In addition to the foregoing, other system aspects are described in the claims, drawings, and text forming a part of the present application.

In one aspect, a mobile device includes but is not limited to a processor, a memory coupled to the processor, an activation module configured for receiving a request from a user to alter one or more functions of the mobile device, and a functionality module in communication with the activation module, the functionality module configured for reducing the functionality of the mobile device in response to the activation signal to enable the mobile device to function without one or more user-personalized features.

In addition to the foregoing, other device aspects are described in the claims, drawings, and text forming a part of the present application.

In addition to the foregoing, various other method, system, computer program product, and/or transferable device aspects are set forth and described in the text (e.g., claims and/or detailed description) and/or drawings of the present application. The foregoing is a summary and thus contains, by necessity, simplifications, generalizations and omissions of detail; consequently, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the summary is illustrative only and is NOT intended to be in any way limiting. Other aspects, features, and advantages of the devices and/or processes and/or other subject matter described herein will become apparent in the text set forth herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A better understanding of the subject matter of the application can be obtained when the following detailed description of the disclosed embodiments is considered in conjunction with the following drawings, in which:

FIG. **1** is a block diagram of an exemplary computer architecture that supports the claimed subject matter of the present application;

FIG. **2** is a block diagram of a transferable device that supports the claimed subject matter of the present application;

FIG. **3** illustrates a flow diagram of a method in accordance with an embodiment of the subject matter of the present application;

FIG. **4** illustrates a flow diagram of a method in accordance with an embodiment of the subject matter of the present application;

FIG. **5** illustrates a flow diagram of a method in accordance with an embodiment of the subject matter of the present application;

FIG. **6** illustrates a flow diagram of a method in accordance with an embodiment of the subject matter of the present application;

FIG. **7** illustrates a flow diagram of a method in accordance with an embodiment of the subject matter of the present application; and

FIG. **8** illustrates a flow diagram of a method in accordance with an embodiment of the subject matter of the present application.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the description that follows, the subject matter of the application will be described with reference to acts and symbolic representations of operations that are performed by one or more computers, unless indicated otherwise. As such, it will be understood that such acts and operations, which are at times referred to as being computer-executed, include the manipulation by the processing unit of the computer of electrical signals representing data in a structured form. This manipulation transforms the data or maintains it at locations in the memory system of the computer which reconfigures or otherwise alters the operation of the computer in a manner well understood by those skilled in the art. The data structures where data is maintained are physical locations of the memory that have particular properties defined by the format of the data. However, although the subject matter of the application is being described in the foregoing context, it is not meant to be limiting as those of skill in the art will appreciate that some of the acts and operations described hereinafter can also be implemented in hardware, software, and/or firmware and/or some combination thereof.

The disclosures provided herein relate to a device that can be transferred with altered functions. In one or more embodiments, the device can be implemented by a transferable device configured as a computing system, a cellular device such as a cellular phone or other form of wireless telephone. The computing system can be networked or otherwise coupled to a source of data, such as via a connection to a database to acquire data necessary for implementing embodiments disclosed herein.

With reference to FIG. **1**, depicted is an exemplary computing system for implementing embodiments. FIG. **1** includes a computer **100**, including a processor **110**, memory **120** and one or more drives **130**. The drives **130** and their associated computer storage media provide storage of computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules and other data for the computer **100**. Drives **130** can include an operating system **140**, application programs **150**, program modules **160**, which can include an activation module **292** and/or a functional module **296** as depicted in FIG. **2**, and program data **180**. Computer **100** further includes user input devices **190** through which a user may enter commands and data. Input devices can include an electronic digitizer, a microphone **191**, a keyboard **193** and pointing device, commonly referred to as a mouse **192**, trackball or touch pad. Other input devices may include a joystick, a game pad, a satellite dish, a scanner, or the like.

These and other input devices can be connected to processor **110** through a user input interface such as user input devices **190** that is coupled to a system bus **199**, but may be connected by other interface and bus structures, such as a parallel port, a game port or a universal serial bus (USB) or network interface **196**. Computers such as computer **100** may also include other peripheral output devices such as speakers, which may be connected through an output peripheral interface **195** or the like. More particularly, output devices can include personal digital assistant type devices networked to computer **100** to enable on-the-fly functional assistance.

Computer **100** may operate in a networked environment using logical connections to one or more computers, such as a remote computer **198** connected to network interface **196** via network **197**. Remote computer **198** may be a personal computer, a server, a router, a network PC, a peer device or other common network node, and can include many or all of the elements described above relative to computer **100**. Networking environments are commonplace in offices, enterprise-wide computer networks, intranets and the Internet. For example, in the subject matter of the present application, computer **100** may comprise the source machine from which data is being migrated, and the remote computer may comprise the destination machine. Note however, that source and destination machines need not be connected by a network or any other means, but instead, data may be migrated via any media capable of being written by the source platform and read by the destination platform or platforms. When used in a local area network (hereinafter referred to as "LAN") or a wide area network (hereinafter referred to as "WAN") networking environment, computer **100** is connected to the LAN through a network interface **196** or an adapter. When used in a WAN networking environment, computer **100** typically includes a modem or other means for establishing communications over the WAN, such as the Internet. It will be appreciated that other means of establishing a communications link between the computers may be used.

Referring now to FIG. **2**, illustrated is an exemplary block diagram of a mobile device **200**, which can be implemented as a mobile computer system, such as computer system **100**, a wireless telephone, a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant or any processor-enabled system. Mobile device **200** can optionally include a network controller **210** which can be coupled to network **220** and to network interface **230**. Network **220** may include a data network, such as the Internet, an intranet, a LAN, a WAN, a cable network, and other like communication systems.

Network **220** may also include a telecommunications network, such as a local telephone network, a long distance telephone network, a cellular telephone network, a satellite communications network, a cable television network and other like communications systems that interact with computer systems. Network **220** may include more than one network and may include a plurality of different types of networks. Network controller **210** can be configured to receive requests over network **220** and/or directly from network interface **230** disposed within mobile device **200**. In one embodiment, network controller **210** is a controller operable with a wireless communication system, such as a cellular system. Network controller **210** can be responsive to or initiate service provider requests received from network **220** or from another source coupled to network controller **210**. Network controller **210** can be configured with a remote authentication function and one or more controller functions to alter and/or restrict one or more functions of a mobile device **200** in communication with the network **220** or directly with network controller **210**. The one or more functions controllable with network controller **210** can include functions defining a base function set of a mobile device, defining one or more modes of functionality for a mobile device and the like. In one embodiment, network controller **210** is coupled to a transmitter **280** configured to transmit to mobile device **200**, for example, to connect to network interface **230**.

Mobile device **200** can include a housing **232**, a processor **250**, a display **240** coupled to processor **250**, a user input/output interface **260** coupled to processor **250**, and a memory **270**, the memory coupled to the processor **250**. According to an embodiment, memory **270** can include a random access memory, a read-only memory, an optical memory, a subscriber identity module memory, or any other memory that can be coupled to a communication device. Display **240** can be a liquid crystal display (LCD), a light emitting diode (LED) display, a plasma display, a touch-sensitive display or any other means for enabling visual access of information. User input/output interface **260** can include a keypad, buttons, a touch pad, a joystick, touch sensitive screen, an additional display, or any other device useful for providing an interface between a user and an electronic device.

Mobile device **200** further includes an activation module **292**, which can be coupled to processor **250**, and located either within the processor, and/or located in memory **270**. In one embodiment, activation module **292** can be an activation module configured for receiving a request from a user to alter one or more functions of the mobile device. In one embodiment, activation module **292** is configured to respond to locking device **272** which can operate to determine functionality of mobile device **200**

In one embodiment, mobile device **200** further includes a functionality module **296**. Functionality module **296** can be configured as a functionality module in communication with the activation module, the functionality module configured for reducing the functionality of the mobile device in response to the activation signal to enable the mobile device to function without one or more user-personalized features. Like activation module **292**, functionality module **296** can be configured to operate with locking device **272**. More specifically, locking device **272** can be configured to operate with display **240** to determine which functions to enable or which mode to enable on the mobile device **200**.

Referring now to FIG. **3**, an exemplary flow diagram illustrates the operation of the mobile device **200**. Block **310** provides for receiving a request from a user to alter one or more functions of the mobile device (e.g., mobile device **200** and/or network controller **210** receiving a request over network **220** to alter functions of mobile device such as mobile device **200**). For example a user operating mobile device **200** could wish to transfer the device to a friend or other person and desire to enable the friend use of a phone without access to private information stored on the device. A service provider would then receive the request to alter functions on the mobile device.

Depicted within block **310** is optional block **3102**, which provides for receiving the request from the user to restrict the one or more functions of the mobile device, (e.g., network controller **210** receiving data from a user to restrict functions of mobile device **200** via a network **220**). A user who uses a mobile device **200** implemented as a cellular phone, for example, could allow another user to use only the phone functions of the device.

Further depicted within block **3102** is optional block **31022** which provides for restricting the one or more functions of the mobile device to a base function set, (e.g. network controller **210** restricting functions of a mobile device to base functions). Base functions could include the base functions for which a device is intended or the like. A mobile telephone, a mobile DVD player and other mobile devices may have a base function set and additional functions that are more processor intensive, fee intensive, or susceptible to personalization. The restriction to a base function set would then reduce the device to avoid concern for other functionalities of the device.

Further depicted within block **31022** is optional block **310222** which provides for defining the base function set to restrict the one or more functions of the mobile device to functions independent of user personalization (e.g., network controller **210** using user determined personalization to determine which functions of a mobile device are included in a base function set). For example a user may have highly personal information stored on a mobile device that the user desires to hide. A personal journal, phonebook, pictures and other personal functions on the mobile device would thereby be restricted by reducing the device to a base function set.

Block **31022** also includes optional block **310224** with provides for determining the base function set as a restricted set of the one or more functions, the restricted set allowing any incoming telephone calls and restricting all outgoing telephone calls to a predetermined list of recipients (e.g., network controller **210** determining which of the one or more functions are included in a base function set of a cellular telephone). Thus, a transfer of a mobile device could allow a user to make and receive a limited number of telephone calls.

Block **310** further includes optional block **3104** which provides for receiving the request from the user via a network connection activated by one or more of a first mode key on the mobile device, a cryptographic signal over the network connection, a voice command to the mobile device, a remote activation character sequence provided over the network connection, a wireless signal provided to the mobile device, a fingerprint activation module on the mobile device, and a first mode locking device attachable to the mobile device (e.g., network controller **210** receiving a request from a user over network **220** via mobile device **200** or another connection to network **220**). The method for activating a network connection to restrict services on the mobile device can include activations on the mobile device and/or away from the mobile device. In one embodiment, on-the-fly type activation of restrictions of the mobile device functions beneficially provides immediate security.

Optional block **3104** depicts optional block **31042**, which provides for receiving the request over a wireless network responsive to a first mode activation signal (e.g., network controller **210** receiving a request from a user over a network **220** configured as a wireless network).

Block **320** provides for responding to the request from the user by activating a first mode, the first mode to alter the one or more functions on the mobile device (e.g., network controller **210** responding a request received over network **220** to activate the first mode and/or alter functions on mobile device **200**). Depicted within block **320** is optional block **3202** which provides for verifying availability of the first mode for the mobile device (e.g., mobile device **200** verifying via network controller **210** availability of the first mode of the mobile device **200**).

Block **320** also includes optional block **3204** which provides for transmitting a self-actuated code to the mobile device (e.g., network controller **210** transmitting code to a mobile device such as mobile device **200**). The self-actuated code could be implemented to operate with functionality module **296** to automatically or substantially automatically reduce or alter functions of the mobile device **200**. Alternatively, the self-actuated code could be configured to operate with locking device **272** to lock or bar functions of the mobile device **200** to a base function set or a generic mode.

Block **3202** includes optional block **32022** and optional block **32024** which provide for determining, for each of the one or more functions, whether the one or more functions on the mobile device are included in a fee plan associated with the user (e.g., network controller **210** operating to determine

which functions are included in a user fee plan). Thus, a user can control the fees associated with the mobile device when the user is not in control of the mobile device **200**.

Block **32024** provides for disabling each of the one or more functions not included in the fee plan (e.g., network controller **210** operating to disable functions not in the fee plan for a user). A user transferring a mobile device to another user that is independent of a fee structure and not responsible for a fee for the mobile device **200** would be unable to incur additional expense for the user that is the owner and responsible party for mobile device **200**.

Block **330** provides for enabling a remote authentication function to allow the user to remotely alter the first mode to at least a second mode (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** enabling remote authentication to alter functionality of mobile device **200** from a first mode to at least a second mode).

Referring now to FIG. **4**, block **410** provides for receiving an activation signal to implement a generic mode with reduced functionality. Block **410** depicts optional blocks **4102** and **4104** therein. Block **4102** provides for receiving the activation signal from a user via one or more of a button activator on the mobile device, a voice command to a network interface, a voice command to the mobile device, a key combination on the mobile device, a fingerprint recognition module on the mobile device, and a touch screen icon on the mobile device (network controller **210** receiving an activation signal). Block **4104** provides for receiving the indication from a network coupled to a service provider associated with the mobile device (e.g., network controller **210** cooperating with a service provider or including a service provider to receive the indication via network **220**).

Block **420** provides for reducing the functionality of the mobile device in response to the activation signal to enable the mobile device to function without one or more user-personalized features (e.g., mobile device **200** receiving an activation signal via network **220** in cooperation with network controller **210** that enables the transferable device to function without user personalized features).

Depicted within block **420** is optional block **4202** which provides for reducing the functionality to the generic mode via identifying one or more of a default functionality setting, a factory-implemented setting and/or a user-specified generic mode setting (e.g., mobile device **200** reducing functionality to a generic mode). The generic mode can be a base function set, a generic mode identified by the user to be generic, and/or the generic mode can be a factory base set of functions. Alternatively, the generic mode can include removing and/or altering any personalized additional service features for mobile device **200**. The altering can include de-personalizing features to an original state, for example.

Block **420** further includes optional block **4204** which provides for altering the functionality of the mobile device to include basic functions of the mobile device included in a fee plan associated with the user (e.g., network controller **210** sending a signal to mobile device **200** configured as a mobile device that alters the functionality of the mobile device **200** to include basic functions associated with a fee plan of a user).

Referring now to FIG. **5**, a method for altering available services of a portable device is illustrated. Block **510** provides for receiving a request from a user to alter one or more available services on the portable device (e.g., either network controller **210** or mobile device **200** receiving a request to alter one or more services on a portable device such as mobile device **200**).

Block **520** provides for implementing a fee-based alternative service for each service specified in the request from the user (e.g., either network controller **210** or mobile device **200** controlling the functionality in response to receiving a request, and implementing a fee-based alternative service for each service identified in the request).

Block **530** provides for responding to a termination request from the user to terminate the fee-based alternative service by substantially immediately terminating the fee-based alternative service (e.g., either network controller **210** or mobile device **200** responding to a termination request to terminate fee-based alternative services by denying access to the services).

Referring now to FIG. **6**, a method for determining usage of a mobile device is illustrated. Block **610** provides for transferring the mobile device (e.g., mobile device **200** being transferred from one user to another user).

Block **620** provides for selectively determining which of one or more features to restrict in connection with the transferring the mobile device (e.g., a user determining which features to restrict on the mobile device **200**). Depicted within block **620** is optional block **6202** which provides for limiting one or more time periods associated with the one or more features (e.g., mobile device **200** and/or network controller **210** determining a time period for restricting the one or more features on mobile device **200**).

Also depicted within block **620** is optional block **6204** which provides for limiting operability associated with the one or more features (e.g., determining a limit for the features operable on mobile device **200**, such as limiting a time period, a fee associated with the features and/or functional aspects of the features according to the limit).

Also depicted within block **620** is optional block **6206** which provides for increasing one or more fees associated with the one or more features after a predetermined period of time (e.g., network controller **210** and/or transferable device controlling a fee structure associated with the one or more features available on mobile device **200** to a predetermined period of time, such as a time associated with limited features or the like).

Block **630** provides for activating an instruction on the mobile device to provide near real-time restriction of the one or more features of the mobile device (e.g., activation module **292** activating an instruction on mobile device **200** to provide real-time restrictions on the features).

Referring now to FIG. **7**, a flow diagram illustrates a method for shared usage of a mobile device. Block **710** provides for providing a first mode of operation for the mobile device to enable a first user to have access to certain functional aspects of the mobile device (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** providing a first mode of operation for a first user, the first mode enabling certain functional aspects). Depicted within block **710** is block **7102**, which provides for providing a first profile on the mobile device for the first user, the first profile associating the first user to the first mode of operation for the mobile device (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** enabling a profile for the first user to enable the first user to identify features operable for the mobile device **200**).

Block **720** provides for providing a second mode of operation for the mobile device to enable a second user to have access to a subset of the certain functional aspects (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** providing a second mode of operation for mobile device **200** that enables a second user to access some of the functional aspects of the mobile device **200**). The second user can include a friend, coworker, or other entity associated with the first user. The second user can have reduced responsibility for the mobile device **200**.

Depicted within block **720** is optional block **7202** which provides for providing a second profile on the mobile device for the second user, the second profile accessible by the first user and the second user, the second profile editable only by the first user to provide the subset of the certain functional aspects (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** enabling a second user to set up a second profile accessible to the first user and the second user such that the second profile is controlled by the first user to limit functionality of the mobile device **200**). The profiles can be set up over a web interface or directly by a service provider or directly on mobile device **200**.

Block **730** provides for enabling a user-actuated transfer from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** enabling a user, such as first user or second user to actuate a transfer from a first mode of operation to the second mode of operation). Depicted within block **730** is optional block **7302** which provides for responding to the user-actuated transfer via one or more of a network connection, a key sequence entered on the mobile device, a voice activated mode change request, and an internet request (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** responding to the user-actuated transfer by responding to a network connection over network **220**, a key sequence entered on mobile device **200**, a voice activated mode change request submitted on the mobile device **200** or network controller **210** and/or an internet request made over network **220**). Also depicted within block **730** are optional blocks **7304** and **7306**. Block **7304** provides for identifying a current user of the mobile device as the first user (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** following an identification protocol to determine if the first user is a current user). Optional block **7306** provides for determining an available second mode of operation in response to receiving a request for the user-actuated transfer (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** determining second mode availability in response to a request for a user-actuated transfer). The available second mode of operation can be determined at the network **220** and/or network controller **210**. The service provider operating via network controller **210** determines whether a second mode is stored or available to the first user.

Referring now to FIG. **8**, a flow diagram illustrates another method for providing shared usage of a mobile device. Block **810** provides for enabling certain functional aspects of the mobile device on behalf of a first primary user (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** enabling certain functional aspects of a mobile device on behalf of a first primary user). Depicted within block **810** is optional block **8102** which provides that the enabling of certain functional aspects could include enabling personalization of one or more of the functional aspects of the mobile device on behalf of the first primary user, the personalization including one or more of a personal phone book, a skin for the mobile device, access to an internet port, and access to text messaging (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** enabling personalization of the mobile device **200** so that the first primary user has control of a phone book, skin on the mobile device **200**, access to the internet and/or text messaging).

Block **820** provides for preventing access by a secondary user to a portion of the certain functional aspects in response to a user-initiated request (e.g., network controller **210** and/or mobile device **200** preventing a secondary user from using certain functional aspects in response to a first user requesting blockage of certain functional aspects). Depicted within block **820** is optional block **8202** which provides for preventing access by the secondary user to the one or more of the functional aspects according to one or more filters available to the first primary user (e.g., network controller and/or mobile device **200** blocking a secondary user from using the one or more functional aspects of the mobile device **200** according to filters available on either the mobile device **200** or available over network **220**).

Those with skill in the computing arts will recognize that the disclosed embodiments have relevance to a wide variety of applications and architectures in addition to those described above. In addition, the functionality of the subject matter of the present application can be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination of software and hardware. The hardware portion can be implemented using specialized logic; the software portion can be stored in a memory or recording medium and executed by a suitable instruction execution system such as a microprocessor.

While the subject matter of the application has been shown and described with reference to particular embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and other changes in form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the subject matter of the application, including but not limited to additional, less or modified elements and/or additional, less or modified blocks performed in the same or a different order.

Those having skill in the art will recognize that the state of the art has progressed to the point where there is little distinction left between hardware and software implementations of aspects of systems; the use of hardware or software is generally (but not always, in that in certain contexts the choice between hardware and software can become significant) a design choice representing cost vs. efficiency tradeoffs. Those having skill in the art will appreciate that there are various vehicles by which processes and/or systems and/or other technologies described herein can be effected (e.g., hardware, software, and/or firmware), and that the preferred vehicle will vary with the context in which the processes and/or systems and/or other technologies are deployed. For example, if an implementer determines that speed and accuracy are paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly hardware and/or firmware vehicle; alternatively, if flexibility is paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly software implementation; or, yet again alternatively, the implementer may opt for some combination of hardware, software, and/or firmware. Hence, there are several possible vehicles by which the processes and/or devices and/or other technologies described herein may be effected, none of which is inherently superior to the other in that any vehicle to be utilized is a choice dependent upon the context in which the vehicle will be deployed and the specific concerns (e.g., speed, flexibility, or predictability) of the implementer, any of which may vary. Those skilled in the art will recognize that optical aspects of implementations will typically employ optically-oriented hardware, software, and or firmware.

The foregoing detailed description has set forth various embodiments of the devices and/or processes via the use of block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples. Insofar as such block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples contain one or more functions and/or operations, it will be understood by those within the art that each function and/or operation within such block diagrams, flowcharts, or examples can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or virtually any combination thereof. In one embodiment, several portions of the subject matter described herein may be implemented via Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs), digital signal processors (DSPs), or other integrated formats. However, those skilled in the art will

recognize that some aspects of the embodiments disclosed herein, in whole or in part, can be equivalently implemented in integrated circuits, as one or more computer programs running on one or more computers (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more computer systems), as one or more programs running on one or more processors (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more microprocessors), as firmware, or as virtually any combination thereof, and that designing the circuitry and/or writing the code for the software and/or firmware would be well within the skill of one skilled in the art in light of this disclosure. In addition, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the mechanisms of the subject matter described herein are capable of being distributed as a program product in a variety of forms, and that an illustrative embodiment of the subject matter described herein applies regardless of the particular type of signal bearing medium used to actually carry out the distribution. Examples of a signal bearing medium include, but are not limited to, the following: a recordable type medium such as a floppy disk, a hard disk drive, a Compact Disc (CD), a Digital Versatile Disk (DVD), a digital tape, a computer memory, etc.; and a transmission type medium such as a digital and/or an analog communication medium (e.g., a fiber optic cable, a waveguide, a wired communications link, a wireless communication link, etc.).

The herein described subject matter sometimes illustrates different components contained within, or connected with, different other components. It is to be understood that such depicted architectures are merely exemplary, and that in fact many other architectures can be implemented which achieve the same functionality. In a conceptual sense, any arrangement of components to achieve the same functionality is effectively "associated" such that the desired functionality is achieved. Hence, any two components herein combined to achieve a particular functionality can be seen as "associated with" each other such that the desired functionality is achieved, irrespective of architectures or intermedial components. Likewise, any two components so associated can also be viewed as being "operably connected," or "operably coupled," to each other to achieve the desired functionality, and any two components capable of being so associated can also be viewed as being "operably couplable," to each other to achieve the desired functionality. Specific examples of operably couplable include but are not limited to physically mateable and/or physically interacting components and/or wirelessly interactable and/or wirelessly interacting components and/or logically interacting and/or logically interactable components.

Those skilled in the art will recognize that it is common within the art to implement devices and/or processes and/or systems in the fashion(s) set forth herein, and thereafter use engineering and/or business practices to integrate such implemented devices and/or processes and/or systems into more comprehensive devices and/or processes and/or systems. That is, at least a portion of the devices and/or processes and/or systems described herein can be integrated into comprehensive devices and/or processes and/or systems via a reasonable amount of experimentation. Those having skill in the art will recognize that examples of such comprehensive devices and/or processes and/or systems might include—as appropriate to context and application—all or part of devices and/or processes and/or systems of (a) an air conveyance (e.g., an airplane, rocket, hovercraft, helicopter, etc.), (b) a ground conveyance (e.g., a car, truck, locomotive, tank, armored personnel carrier, etc.), (c) a building (e.g., a home, warehouse, office, etc.), (d) an appliance (e.g., a refrigerator, a washing machine, a dryer, etc.), (e) a communications system (e.g., a networked system, a telephone system, a Voice over IP system, etc.), (f) a business entity (e.g., an Internet Service Provider (ISP) entity such as Comcast Cable, Quest, Southwestern Bell, etc.); or (g) a wired/wireless services entity such as Sprint, Cingular, Nextel, etc.), etc.

While particular aspects of the present subject matter described herein have been shown and described, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that, based upon the teachings herein, changes and modifications may be made without departing from the subject matter described herein and its broader aspects and, therefore, the appended claims are to encompass within their scope all such changes and modifications as are within the true spirit and scope of the subject matter described herein. Furthermore, it is to be understood that the invention is defined by the appended claims. It will be understood by those within the art that, in general, terms used herein, and especially in the appended claims (e.g., bodies of the appended claims) are generally intended as "open" terms (e.g., the term "including" should be interpreted as "including but not limited to," the term "having" should be interpreted as "having at least," the term "includes" should be interpreted as "includes but is not limited to," etc.). It will be further understood by those within the art that if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is intended, such an intent will be explicitly recited in the claim, and in the absence of such recitation no such intent is present. For example, as an aid to understanding, the following appended claims may contain usage of the introductory phrases "at least one" and "one or more" to introduce claim recitations. However, the use of such phrases should not be construed to imply that the introduction of a claim recitation by the indefinite articles "a" or "an" limits any particular claim containing such introduced claim recitation to inventions containing only one such recitation, even when the same claim includes the introductory phrases "one or more" or "at least one" and indefinite articles such as "a" or "an" (e.g., "a" and/or "an" should typically be interpreted to mean "at least one" or "one or more"); the same holds true for the use of definite articles used to introduce claim recitations. In addition, even if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is explicitly recited, those skilled in the art will recognize that such recitation should typically be interpreted to mean at least the recited number (e.g., the bare recitation of "two recitations," without other modifiers, typically means at least two recitations, or two or more recitations). Furthermore, in those instances where a convention analogous to "at least one of A, B, and C, etc." is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., "a system having at least one of A, B, and C" would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). In those instances where a convention analogous to "at least one of A, B, or C, etc." is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., "a system having at least one of A, B, or C" would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). It will be further understood by those within the art that virtually any disjunctive word and/or phrase presenting two or more alternative terms, whether in the description, claims, or drawings, should be understood to contemplate the possibilities of including one of the terms, either of the terms, or both terms. For example, the phrase "A or B" will be understood to include the possibilities of "A" or "B" or "A and B."

We claim:

1. A method for a mobile device, comprising:

providing a locking device configured to operate with at least one display of the mobile device to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device;

providing a first mode for the mobile device, the first mode including at least (a) allowing telephone calls in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device and (b) disabled access to at least one personal phone book of the mobile device;

transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device, the attached locking device at least partially housed by a housing of the mobile device, the second mode including at least enabled access to the at least one personal phone book of the mobile device, the transferring including at least activating a skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the activated skin enabling a human to perceive, via at least one display of the mobile device altered by the activated skin, that access to the at least one personal phone book of the mobile device is enabled without viewing the locking device; and

transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode in response to the locking device detached from the mobile device, the mobile device, the transferring including at least deactivating the skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the deactivated skin enabling a human to perceive, via the at least one display of the mobile device altered by the deactivated skin, that access to the at least one personal phone book of the mobile device is disabled without viewing the locking device.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode comprises:

receiving a request from a user of the mobile device to restrict access to at least one personal phone book of the mobile device.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving a request from a user of the mobile device to restrict access to at least one personal phone book of the mobile device comprises:

receiving a request from a user of the mobile device to restrict access to at least one phone number accessible by at least one personal phone book of the mobile device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode comprises:

altering one or more functions of the mobile device to a base function set to restrict the one or more functions of the mobile device to functions independent of user personalization.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode comprises:

reducing the functionality of the mobile device in response to the locking device being detached to enable the mobile device to function without one or more user-personalized features.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode comprises:

enabling certain functional aspects of the mobile device in response to the locking device, including at least enabling personalization of one or more of the functional aspects of the mobile device, the personalization including personalization of at least one personal phone book.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode comprises:

transferring the mobile device from the first mode to the second mode in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device and in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode comprises:

transferring the mobile device from the first mode to the second mode including at least transferring the mobile device to the second mode in accordance with a profile associated with the second mode, the profile capable of being edited via the mobile device to define access to one or more functions of the mobile device.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode comprises:

transferring the mobile device from the first mode to the second mode including at least transferring the mobile device to the second mode in accordance with a profile associated with the second mode, the profile capable of being edited via a web interface to define access to one or more functions of the mobile device.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode comprises:

transferring the mobile device from the first mode to the second mode including at least transferring the mobile device in accordance with a profile associated with the second mode, the profile capable of being edited via at least one system associated with a service provider of the mobile device.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode comprises:

transferring the mobile device from the first mode to the second mode in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device, the attached locking device including at least one memory.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode comprises:

transferring the mobile device from the first mode to the second mode to enable personalization of at least one personal phone book of the mobile device.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode comprises:

transferring the mobile device from the first mode to the second mode to enable access to one or more telephone numbers stored via the at least one phone book of the mobile device.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode comprises:

transferring the mobile device from the first mode to the second mode to enable access to one or more functions of the mobile device according to at least one of a first profile or a second profile on the mobile device, the first profile and second profile of the mobile device capable of being edited to at least one of enable or disable access to a subset of one or more functional aspects of the mobile device.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device comprises:

activating a speaker in conjunction with activating the skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode.

16. A mobile device, comprising:

a processing device;

a housing;

a display;

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device;

circuitry configured for providing a first mode for the mobile device, the first mode including at least (a) allowing telephone calls in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device and (b) disabled access to at least one personal phone book of the mobile device;

circuitry configured for transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device, the attached locking device at least partially housed by a housing of the mobile device, the second mode including at least enabled access to the at least one personal phone book of the mobile device, the transferring including at least activating a skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the activated skin enabling a human to perceive, via at least one display of the mobile device altered by the activated skin, that access to the at least one personal phone book of the mobile device is enabled without viewing the locking device; and

circuitry configured for transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode in response to the locking device detached from the mobile device, the transferring including at least deactivating the skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the deactivated skin enabling a human to perceive, via the at least one display of the mobile device altered by the deactivated skin, that access to the at least one personal phone book of the mobile device is disabled without viewing the locking device.

17. The mobile device of claim **16**, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to receive a locking device to enable the mobile device to function with one or more user-personalized features.

18. The mobile device of claim **16**, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to receive a locking device to determine which mode to enable on the mobile device.

19. The mobile device of claim **16**, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to receive a locking device to determine which functions of the mobile device to enable.

20. The mobile device of claim **16**, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to receive a locking device to determine which functions of the mobile device to enable in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device.

21. The mobile device of claim **16**, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to receive a locking device to determine, at least partially based on at least one wireless communication with a network controller, one or more functions to enable on the mobile device in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device and the network controller.

22. The mobile device of claim **16**, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

at least one attachable locking device receiving arrangement configured for receiving at least one of a random access memory, a read-only memory, an optical memory, or a subscriber identity module memory, wherein an attached at least one of a random access memory, read-only memory, optical memory, or subscriber identity module memory is at least partially housed by the housing of the mobile device.

23. The mobile device of claim **16**, wherein the circuitry configured for transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode in response to the locking device detached from the mobile device comprises:

circuitry configured for communicating with a network controller operably coupled to a service provider associated with the mobile device, including at least communicating, via a network interface of the mobile device, one or more requests for the service provider to restrict access to one or more functions of the mobile device.

24. A method for a mobile device, comprising:

providing a locking device configured to operate with at least one display of the mobile device to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device;

providing a first mode for the mobile device, the first mode including at least (a) allowing telephone calls in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device and (b) disabled access to at least one fee-intensive function of the mobile device;

transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device, the attached locking device at least partially housed by a housing of the mobile device, the second mode including at least enabled access to the at least one fee-intensive function of the mobile device, the transferring including at least activating a skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the activated skin enabling a human to perceive, via at least one display of the mobile device altered by the activated skin, that access to the at least one fee-intensive function of the mobile device is enabled without viewing the locking device; and

transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode in response to the locking device detached from the mobile device, the mobile device, the transferring including at least deactivating the skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the deactivated skin enabling a human to perceive, via the at least one display of the mobile device altered by the deactivated skin, that access to the at least one fee-intensive function of the mobile device is disabled without viewing the locking device.

25. The method of claim **24**, wherein providing a locking device configured to operate with at least one display of the mobile device to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

providing a locking device configured to operate with at least one display of the mobile device to indicate accessibility to one or more fee-intensive functions of the mobile device in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein providing a locking device configured to operate with at least one display of the mobile device to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

providing a locking device configured to operate with at least one display of the mobile device to indicate accessibility to one or more fee-intensive functions of the mobile device in accordance with one or more filters of the mobile device.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein providing a locking device configured to operate with at least one display of the mobile device to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

providing a locking device configured to operate with at least one display of the mobile device to indicate accessibility to one or more fee-intensive functions of the mobile device in accordance with one or more filters available over a network associated with the mobile device.

28. A mobile device, comprising:

a processing device;

a housing;

a display;

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device;

circuitry configured for providing a first mode for the mobile device, the first mode including at least (a) allowing telephone calls in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device and (b) disabled access to at least one fee-intensive function of the mobile device;

circuitry configured for transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device, the attached locking device at least partially housed by a housing of the mobile device, the second mode including at least enabled access to the at least one fee-intensive function of the mobile device, the transferring including at least activating a skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the activated skin enabling a human to perceive, via at least one display of the mobile device altered by the activated skin, that access to the at least one fee-intensive function of the mobile device is enabled without viewing the locking device; and

circuitry configured for transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode in response to the locking device detached from the mobile device, the transferring including at least deactivating the skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the deactivated skin enabling a human to perceive, via the at least one display of the mobile device altered by the deactivated skin, that access to the at least one fee-intensive function of the mobile device is disabled without viewing the locking device.

29. The mobile device of claim 28, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement for removably receiving at least one computer-readable medium configured as a locking device.

30. The mobile device of claim 28, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device in conjunction with a self-actuated code configured to at least one of lock or bar functions of the mobile device.

31. The mobile device of claim 28, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate, responsive to the locking device arrangement receiving a locking device, availability of one or more fee-intensive functions of the mobile device in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device.

32. The mobile device of claim 31, further comprising:

the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate, responsive to detection of a vacant locking device arrangement, restricted access to one or more fee-intensive functions of the mobile device in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device.

33. The mobile device of claim 28, further comprising:

circuitry configured for determining at least one fee-based alternative service capable of providing access to one or more personalized features of the mobile device in response to the locking device detached from the mobile device.

34. The mobile device of claim 28, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device in accordance with one or more time periods associated with limiting access to at least one fee-intensive function of the mobile device.

35. The mobile device of claim 28, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate a limit imposed on at least one fee-intensive function of the mobile device responsive to detection of a vacant locking device arrangement.

36. The mobile device of claim 28, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to receive an unlocking device, the unlocking device associated with at least one of unlocking or enabling one or more aspects of the mobile device upon receiving of the unlocking device by the locking device receiving arrangement.

37. The mobile device of claim 28, wherein the locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device comprises:

a locking device receiving arrangement configured to (a) facilitate at least one of unlocking or enabling one or more aspects of the mobile device in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device and (b) facilitate at least one of locking or disabling the one or more aspects of the mobile device in response to the locking device detached from the mobile device.

38. A method for a mobile device, comprising:
providing a locking device configured to operate with at least one display of the mobile device to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device;
providing a first mode for the mobile device, the first mode including at least (a) allowing telephone calls in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device and (b) disabled access to at least one text messaging function of the mobile device;
transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device, the attached locking device at least partially housed by a housing of the mobile device, the second mode including at least enabled access to the at least one text messaging function of the mobile device, the transferring including at least activating a skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the activated skin enabling a human to perceive, via at least one display of the mobile device altered by the activated skin, that access to the at least one text messaging function of the mobile device is enabled without viewing the locking device; and
transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode in response to the locking device detached from the mobile device, the mobile device, the transferring including at least deactivating the skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the deactivated skin enabling a human to perceive, via the at least one display of the mobile device altered by the deactivated skin, that access to the at least one text messaging function of the mobile device is disabled without viewing the locking device.

39. A mobile device, comprising:
a processing device;
a housing;
a display;
a locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device;
circuitry configured for providing a first mode for the mobile device, the first mode including at least (a) allowing telephone calls in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device and (b) disabled access to at least one text messaging function of the mobile device;
circuitry configured for transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device, the attached locking device at least partially housed by a housing of the mobile device, the second mode including at least enabled access to the at least one text messaging function of the mobile device, the transferring including at least activating a skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the activated skin enabling a human to perceive, via at least one display of the mobile device altered by the activated skin, that access to the at least one text messaging function of the mobile device is enabled without viewing the locking device; and
circuitry configured for transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode in response to the locking device detached from the mobile device, the transferring including at least deactivating the skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the deactivated skin enabling a human to perceive, via the at least one display of the mobile device altered by the deactivated skin, that access to the at least one text messaging function of the mobile device is disabled without viewing the locking device.

40. A method for a mobile device, comprising:
providing a locking device configured to operate with at least one display of the mobile device to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device;
providing a first mode for the mobile device, the first mode including at least (a) allowing telephone calls in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device and (b) disabled Internet access via the mobile device;
transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device, the attached locking device at least partially housed by a housing of the mobile device, the second mode including at least enabled Internet access via the mobile device, the transferring including at least activating a skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the activated skin enabling a human to perceive, via at least one display of the mobile device altered by the activated skin, that Internet access via the mobile device is enabled without viewing the locking device; and
transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode in response to the locking device detached from the mobile device, the mobile device, the transferring including at least deactivating the skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the deactivated skin enabling a human to perceive, via the at least one display of the mobile device altered by the deactivated skin, that Internet access via the mobile device is disabled without viewing the locking device.

41. A mobile device, comprising:
a processing device;
a housing;
a display;
a locking device receiving arrangement configured to operate with the display to indicate accessibility to one or more functions of the mobile device;
circuitry configured for providing a first mode for the mobile device, the first mode including at least (a) allowing telephone calls in accordance with a fee plan associated with the mobile device and (b) disabled Internet access via the mobile device;
circuitry configured for transferring the mobile device from the first mode to a second mode in response to the locking device attached to the mobile device, the attached locking device at least partially housed by a housing of the mobile device, the second mode including at least enabled Internet access via the mobile device, the transferring including at least activating a skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the activated skin enabling a human to perceive, via at least one display of the mobile device altered by the activated skin, that Internet access via the mobile device is enabled without viewing the locking device; and
circuitry configured for transferring the mobile device from the second mode to the first mode in response to the locking device detached from the mobile device, the transferring including at least deactivating the skin for the mobile device associated with the second mode, the deactivated skin enabling a human to perceive, via the at least one display of the mobile device altered by the deactivated skin, that Internet access via the mobile device is disabled without viewing the locking device.

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